



OPM-UNHCR VERIFICATION EXERCISE: update

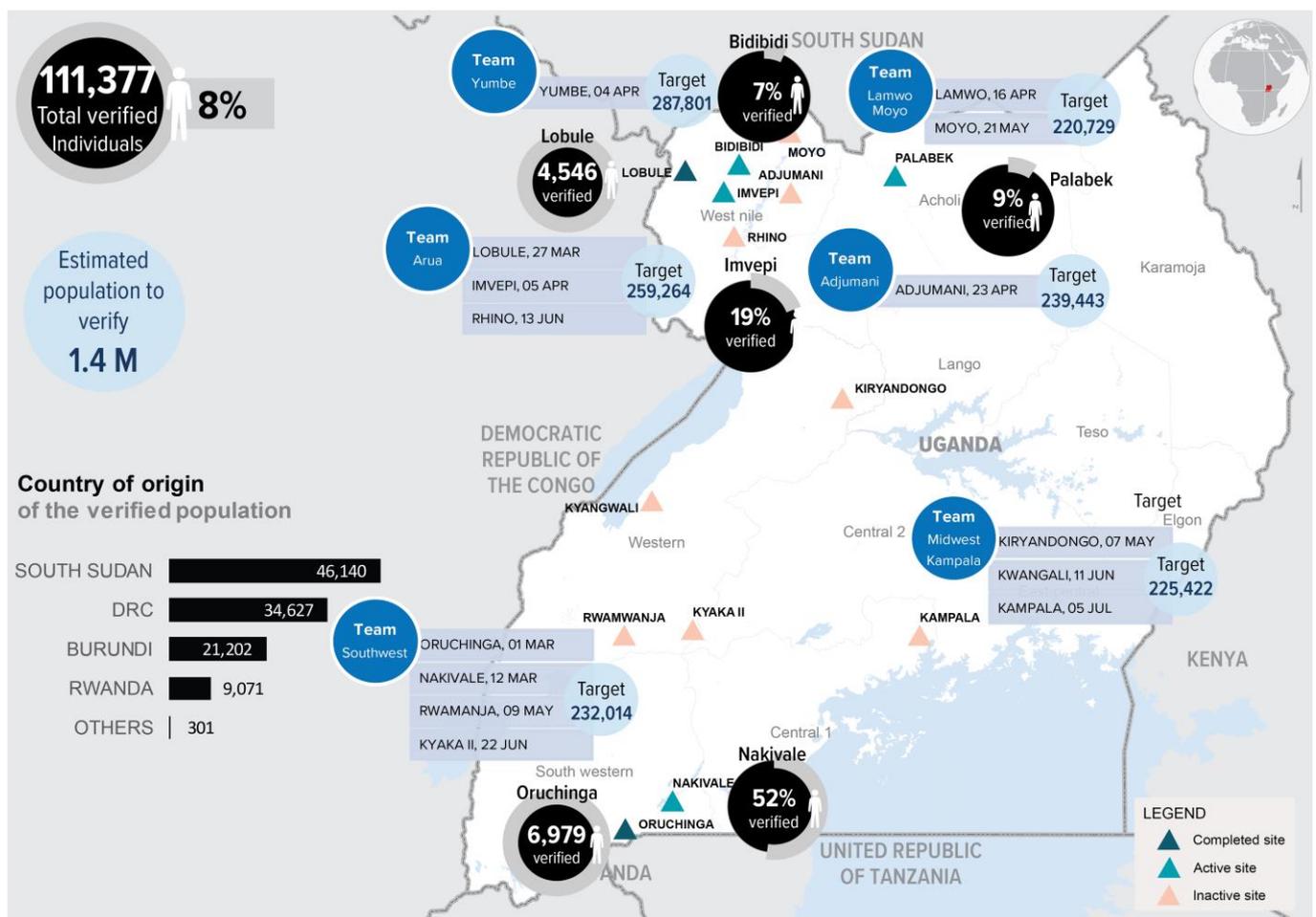
HIGHLIGHTS

The verification of refugees in Uganda started on **1st March 2018**, following the Prime Minister's request to UNCHR to conduct a country-wide biometric verification of the refugee populations in the country. As of 23rd April, 2018, a total of **111,377** individuals have been verified, representing 8% of the estimated target of 1.4 million refugees. Verification has been completed in Oruchinga and Lobule settlements and is ongoing in Nakivale, Imvepi, Bidibidi, Palabek and Adjumani settlements. In the last week, five of the planned six verification teams were active and carrying out verification in the five sites. The final team is expected to be in place in Kiryandongo settlement in the month of May.

The daily target of verifying 3,000 individuals was a challenge at the beginning of the exercise but in the last week, the Nakivale team has managed to process some 3,241 individuals, the highest verified in a single day. Teams in Imvepi are also exceeding the target.

Cooperation with OPM and WFP is smooth, and a technical working group meets regularly to discuss progress and iron out any arising issues. Regular meetings continue to be held with community leaders in the settlements to raise awareness about the exercise.

KEY FIGURES



STAFFING

408 staff: **6** teams of **68** staff each

(**96%** are national staff)

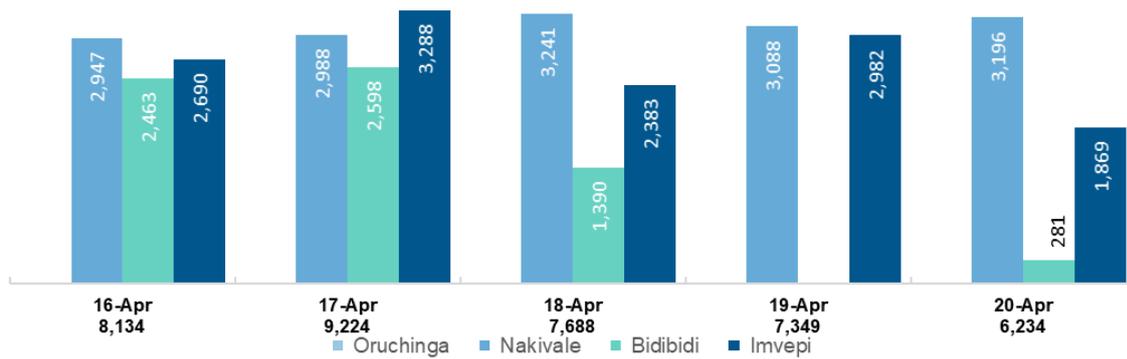
Over **60** Verification sites

Daily average all team
7,726
current week

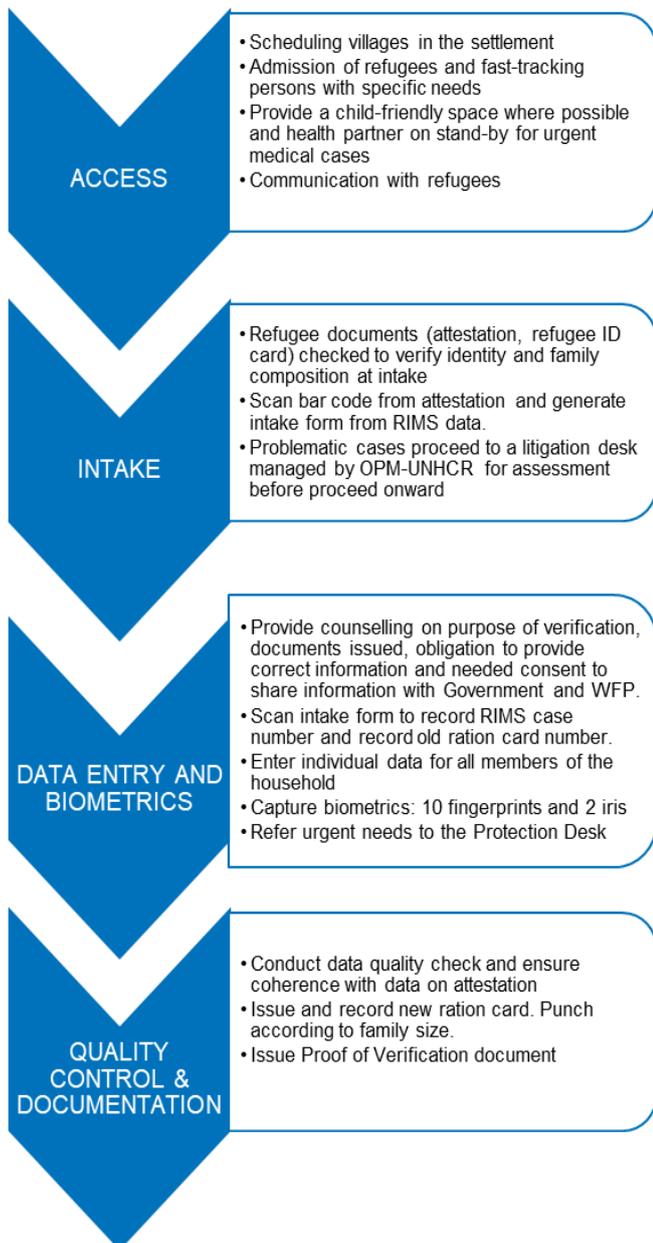
Highest Daily verified
9,224
current week



Verification exercise | Daily trends (16-20 April)



VERIFICATION EXERCISE: PROCESS FLOW CHART



CHALLENGES

Litigation* remains the main cause for bottlenecks with varying practices across settlements. UNHCR and OPM continue to discuss streamlining and harmonization of litigation processes in order to ensure fair and transparent procedures for all refugees.

A low turnout was noted in several locations, leading to an adjustment of the schedule and increasing mobilization efforts by OPM, UNHCR and partners which has been successful in some cases. School exams and other communal activities were noted as reasons for the low turnout.

In Nakivale, large numbers of unscheduled Congolese refugees approached the verification site on the same day due to rumors that it was the last day of verification. The situation was resolved but highlighted again the need for robust communication to the refugee communities.

The rainy season affecting the state of the roads, particularly in Palabek, is still causing delays for the exercise as well as causing risk of damage to equipment.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Preparations are underway in Kiryandongo where the 6th team will start verification in the month of May.

UNHCR and WFP will be working together with OPM to strengthen messaging to the refugee community about the verification, including collecting feedback and diversifying the means for communication.

UNHCR is supporting litigation at WFP food and cash distribution sites, in addition to technical support and training for the distribution tool.

*Where Individuals or families present issues that need resolving such as a new family composition, a case that has been closed in RIMS and needs to be re-activated, they proceed to the Litigation desk.